THE DAYS OF HOMESPUN WOM-EN USED TO WORK HARD.

Our Grandmothers Used to Spend Much Time Spinning, Weaving, Knitting, Netting and Embroidering-They Manufactured All Their Own Cloth. In the days of homespun four ounces

wool was a day's stint in spinning, or German his though a clever spinner could easily do services have twice as much. Wool was often colored before spinning-dyed black or red, then | m and by his carded with white. The resultant party in the pothread, steel or red mixed; was wonderfully soft and harmonious in color.

Old silk carefully raveled, then carded with white wool or cotton, made the silk mixed that was such a favorite for the long stockings worn with knee breeches, as well as for homespun gowns. They were woven in checks, stripes and cloudings. One of the prettiest was dice cloth-a kind of basket weave-of alternate white and black or gray threads, thirteen to the group. It was troublesome to weave—a thread too many made a balk in the pattern. Children and servants had simple checks in blue or copperas and white. Linseys for winter wear were gorgeous in green and scarlet and black and blue.

Goods

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Dyeing was part of the home work, as well as weaving and spinning. From walnut hulls, bark and root came twenty shades of brown. Green walnuts and sumach berries gave a beautiful fast black that did not stain the wearer. Hickory bark or peach leaves gave a glowing yellow; swamp maple, a blackish purple; sugar maple, a light leather tint, and oak bark, set with copperas, a handsome grayish color. In fact, skilled dyer could get twenty colors from the woods and fields.

Except for flannels, carpets and blankets the warp was usually of flax or cotton. A very pretty carpet had half the warp of coarse wool doubled-a strand of green and one of brown. In weaving when the woof came uppermost a very coarse wool thread was shot in. When the cotton came up a very fine thread caught and held it almost invisibly. Beaten up thick the effect was that of a mossy, clouded Turkey fabric. Other carpets were woven in stripes or plain, like webbing, the woolen wool threads passing over and under the cotton warp two at a time.

Size was estimated by the number of threads that, laid side by side, made cloth the regulation yard wide. The coarsest was 400. From that it went up and up with hardly a limit except that of the spinners' skill and patience. There was scarcely anything they couldn't weave on the looms-jersey and serge, and cotton and linsey, house linen, bed linen, blankets and counterpanes. The counterpane was homespun high water mark. Woolen ones had usually the figure in colors skipped up on a white or blue ground. Those of cotton were left white and bleached till they dazzled the eyes. Of some easy patterns a clever woman could weave eight yards in a day.

Of honeycomb, huckaback and diamond draper three yards was a good day's work, Fancy patterns were more tedious. The crown of skill and patience was knotted cloth. The weave was perfectly plain, but at intervals of an inch a big soft cord was woven in and pulled up in little knots all along its length. Over the body of the cloth they formed regular diamonds. For the center they made an elaborate arabesque design, Down one side of the spread the maker generally drew them up to shape her initials, with either the date of making in roman letters or her husband's name opposite, to balance her own.

There was room, and to spare. Beds in those days stood four feet from the floor. Counterpanes were three yards by four without the fringe, which was either woven with dates and initials in the deep open heading or knitted in open lozenge pattern to which deep tassels were attached. It fell over a valance, also homespun, and was either fringed or edged with netted points at

Weaving was not the sum of housewifery in that era. The good dames knew as much of embroidery as their favored great-granddaughters. One of them has left behind her a monumental piece of work, in which can be found no less than nineteeu different stitches, many of them among the rarest and most difficult known.

The netting needle and stirrup filled up many a day. The bed was the piece de resistance in furnishing then. It was a tall four poster, and, besides counterpane and valance, had netted curtains and netted points, edging the long pillow and bolster cases. Window curtains were netted, too, besides edgings and fringes for all kinds of household articles. In particular the "toilets" that fell over the high square bureaus had often a netted fall half a yard deep around them. In addition, caps, ruffles, purses and fichus were netted. The latter were called dress handkerchiefs, and folded high about the throat over the low cut gowns. On them the netter lavished her choicest art.

Sometimes the mesh was as fine almost as bobbinet. Nettral capes were high in favor, but the square with long ends was accounted bester for young women. Sometimes they had fringe or tassels about the edge, or even a ruffle of the net with a big pattern run in. The handsomest finish was embroidery. For that the net was tacked smooth over cloth, the figures were wrought through both, then the under fabrics were cut away, leaving something

closely approaching old rose point. The women who practiced these arts made tatting, knit lace, stockings, mittens, tufted gloves, overshoes, comforters, garters, galluses and many things besides. Before their works follow them it might be well if some collector should gather up and keep safe for later generations a representative array of the homespun masterpieces.—New York A YOUTHFUL CANDIDATE

nee of the Minnesota Democrats. The Democrats of Minnesota have nominated as their candidate for governor Daniel W. Lawler, corporation counsel of the city of St. Paul, to which post he was elected by the unanimous vote of both Democratic and Republican members of the council.

Mr. Lawler is an excellent stump wool was a day's stint in spinning speaker, and as he can "orate" equally

fitical campaigns of recent years. There is probably little fear of ed that Mr. Lawler is the young-

est man who is at D. W. LAWLER. present a candidate for gubernatorial honors. He was born about thirty-two years ago in Prairie du Chien, Wis. He comes naturally by his predilection for politics, inasmuch as his father, General Lawler, was for many years one of the best known of the many Democratic campaigners of Wisconsin.

Daniel W. Lawler's alma mater is the Georgetown (D. C.) college, from which he received the degree of A. B. when he was graduated in 1881, and which further honored him in 1887 with the degree of A. M. Mr. Lawler graduated with high honors from Georgetown college, and shortly afterward entered the law school of Yale university, where he made even a brighter record for himself. The Betts prize for scholarship, along with the degree of LL. B., went to him in 1883, although his class was one of the brightest the Yale law school has ever hall The Townsend prize for the master's oration is one of the most highly coveted trophies and many were the students who strove for it. The winner was Mr. Lawler, who was further honored with the degree of M. D. in 1884.

Mr. Lawler then went west, but concluding not to return to his old home in Wisconsin finally determined to locate in St. Paul. He speedily built up a lucrative law practice, and in 1886 he formed the law firm which still exists under the title of Lawler, Durment & Bigelow. The same year he was appointed assistant United States district attorney, and he also made 1886 more notable for himself by marrying Miss Elizabeth O'Leary, of St. Paul. Two children have been born to them. Mr. Lawler only held the assistant United States district attorneyship two years, when he resigned it to devote his entire attention to his law practice. He has held no office since, except that of cor-poration counsel of St. Paul, to which, as already mentioned, he was unanimously elected last year.

A Mantel Six Thousand Yours Old. It is seldom that wood, which was grown more than 4,000 years before the Christian era, is used in the construction of a present day residence, and yet this really happened recently in Edinburgh, Scotland, where a mantel was fashioned from wood said to be 6,000 years old. The wood, an oak tree, was found in a sand pit at Musselburgh, thirteen feet below the surface. Professor Geikie, of the geology chair of the University of Edinburgh, after personally examining the strata in which the oak was found, said the tree, which was 5 feet 9 inches in diameter, must be at least 6,000 years old, and describes it as a relic of neolithic man. It was in a fine state of preservation, due to the sand, and was easily workable.

The Widow of M. Very. Americans as a rule do not realize the extent to which the people of France have been terrorized by the Parisian anarchists. Mme. Very, the widow of the Paris restaurant keeper who was killed by friends of Ravachol in retaliation for his part in Ravachol's arrest, has been appointed to one of the best of the boulevard newspaperdiosques. She fears to tend the kiosque in person, but will get \$1.40 a day for it after paying another for doing the work.

Nebraska's Republican Leader. The Republicans of Nebraska, after the most heated contest ever held in their state conventions, named as their candidate for governor Hon. Lorenzo Cronnse, formerly congressman and recently appointed assistant secretary of the treasury in place of Mr. Batcheller, who was made minister to Portugal.



LORENZO CROUNSE.

Mr. Crounse was born in Schoharie county, N. Y., Jan. 27, 1834. He reseived an academic education, studied law and in 1855 commenced to practice in Montgomery county. At the outbreak of the civil war he organized a Artesian Well Driller battery and entered the service as captain of artillery. In 1865 he removed to Nebraska, was elected a member of the territorial legislature the next year and assisted in forming the present state constitution. In 1867 he became associate justice of the state supreme court, and later was a member of the Fortythird and Forty-fourth congresses. Last April he was appointed assistant secre-tary of the treasury by Secretary Foster.

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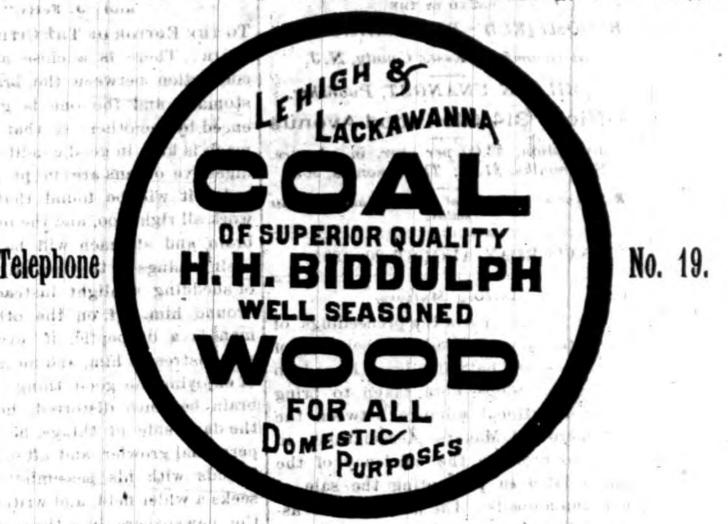
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